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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

for

the year

1950

September, 1951

J.H.C. Eglinton
Medical Officer of Health
L.C. Corlett
Sanitary Inspector

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREET

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District for the year 1950.

The estimated civilian population being 5,490 there is an increase in the population (5,389) compared with the previous year 1949.

There has been a small decrease in the number of live births 89 (93); the live birth rate still being above that for England and Wales 16.21 (15.8).

You will note with great satisfaction that there were no Infant Deaths during the year, the Infant Mortality rate for England and Vales being 21.8, and there was a marked decrease in the number of deaths 39 (68).

The deaths from heart disease were halved 12 (24) and the deaths from Cancer were only 4 (last year 13).

The increase in the expectation of life, partly due perhaps to the improvement in sanitation, the introduction of new drugs such as the sulphonamides, penicillin etc., together with the long-term maladies of an ageing population, the difficulty of getting the aged sick into hospital and the housing difficulty make this problem a serious one.

In view of the Acute Poliomyelitis in the surrounding areas the Urban District was fortunate in not having more than six cases, 4 in August, 1 in September and 1 in October. On account of these cases and as a precautionary measure the Sunday Schools, Infant Welfare and Nursery School were closed; the local Cinema authorities also temporarily suspended the childrens' Saturday Morning Matinees. There was a late re-opening of the Infant School (on holiday).

Influenza, not of a serious nature, was prevalent in the months of January, February and December but there was no major epidemic of notifiable disease.

May I again lay stress on the importance of Immunization against Diphtheria. It was unfortunate that sessions had to be suspended owing to Poliomyelitis. For the same reason the removal of Tonsils and Adenoids was postponed.

The Greenbank Swimming Pool was once again of inestimable value to the district and one notes with great satisfaction the 100% satisfactory reports on the water. Special precautions were taken during the season.

I cannot allow this report to pass without expressing my great regret at the death of my esteemed and valued colleague Mr. Herring. He was a native of Street and so had an unusual interest in the affairs of the district, which he served with great assiduity, conscientiousness and distinction.

May I, in conclusion, once again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued courtesy and the Staff for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. C. EGLINTON.

[illegible]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1950

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 ~~sq. yards.~~ acres

	1950	1949
Population - The estimated population for 1950 was	5,490	5,389
The number of live births, including 3 illegitimate births was ... ... (46 male, 43 female) giving a live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population of	89 16.21	93 17.27
The live birth rate for England and Wales being	15.8	16.70
The number of still births was ... ... (1 female)	1	1
Giving a still birth rate of	0.18	0.18
The total number of deaths was (20 male, 19 female) giving a death rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population of	39 7.10	68 12.62
The death rate for England and Wales being ...	11.60	11.70

Infants

The number of deaths of infants under one year (~~all legitimate~~	-	4.00
The Infant Mortality for England and Wales being	21.8	32.00

Causes of Death (39)

Syphlilic Diseases	1	-
Cancer	4	13
Diabetes	2	2
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	2	0
Heart Disease	12	24
Other circulatory disease...	1	1
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	4
Other defined and ill defined diseases..	6	0
All accidents excluding Motor Vehicles..	1	0
Suicide	1	1

Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever	12	5
Measles	8	11
Whooping Cough	14	1
Pneumonia	5	0
Acute Poliomyelitis...	6	0

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory	5	5
Non-respiratory	0	0
Deaths during year	0	2

Tuberculosis

	1949	1950
Number of cases on the register on December 31st	16	21
Respiratory	14	19
Non-respiratory	2	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children in an immunised state 31st December, 1950:-

Age at 31.12.50 i.e. born in:-	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5 - 9 1941/45	10-14 1936/40	Total Under 15
	1	38	98	105	94	382	181	899

Number immunised from 1 - 5 years of age: 70. Primary 44, Re-inforced 26.

Vaccination

Number of children in a vaccinated state 31st December, 1950:-

Age Groups	Under 1		1 to 4		5 to 14		15 or over		Totals	
	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	3	5	3

Child Welfare and Nursing Associations.

The child welfare and nursing associations have continued to maintain a high standard of efficiency and again proved to be a great asset to the community.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday in a portion of the Hindhayes Infant School, where the District Nurses, three in number, ordinarily attend. I attend as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays. The Infant Welfare Committee and voluntary helpers continue to carry out their various duties with enthusiasm, greatly contributing to the smooth running of the clinic.

Unfortunately, the clinic had to be closed for three months as a precautionary measure, owing to Poliomyelitis being in the District.

Activities.

Short talks and demonstrations have taken place and some successful outings of interest and value to the mothers have been arranged by the Committee during the year.

The usual number of ordinary clinic sessions and immunization sessions against diphtheria have had to be curtailed owing to Poliomyelitis and the closure of the clinic.

The Infant Welfare Attendances:

Number of sessions	43
Number of Children under one year	940
Number of Children over one year	617
Number of Mothers total attendances	1366
Number of Individual Mothers	185
Number of Children examined by the Doctor	204

Distribution of Supplies under the Ministry's scheme, including orange juice, cod liver oil etc., have taken place as in former years.

A strict supervision being maintained.

The District Nurses, three in number, have ag in had a busy year, their total number of visits being 8963. Their scope of work includes, maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections etc. etc. as well as the ordinary district nursing duties. They have maintained a very high standard of efficiency and devotion to duty.

The number of visits to old people continues to rise, togethe with the many and varied problems associated with the aged.

Analgesia.

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment and expectant mothers are given analgesia if so desired.

Home Help Service.

There continued to be an increased demand for home helps which proved impossible to satisfy with local women, most of whom were fully occupied with their own domestic duties or employed in local factories.

Street Day Nursery

The Day Nursery has been taken over by the Education Authori and has become a Nursery School with qualified teachers and Nursery Assistants.

The priorities are:-

1. Children of women who go out to work either full or part time.

2. Children of mothers with several children below school age in the family.

3. Children of mothers with chronic illness in the house.

No child taken under 3 years of age. All spend a full day at School and the food is supplied under the School Meals Service.

The number attending during the year averaged 60.

The general health during the year has been very good.

Infestation.

No case of infestation was reported during the year.

Greenbank Public Swimming Baths.

This attractive Swimming Bath in Street, privately owned, made possible by a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark who, throughout her life, took a great interest in the welfare of women and children.

The capacity of the Pool is 200,000 gallons. The Children section is separate from the Adults.

The water obtained from public supply is adequately chlorinated - purification plant installed, horizontal pressure filter by Pulsometer, break point chlorination - frequent daily tests being made. Samples are taken by the Local Authority and sent to the County Analyst, the Reports being excellent - 100%. The water is completely changed every six hours by filtration and the surrounds are kept clean by frequent washing down with chlorinated water.

A qualified Bath Superintendent, with other helpers, is in regular attendance and the Urban District Council is represented on the Management Committee.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th - the number of attendances this year being 34,000 of which 70% were juveniles under 16.

Parks

There are two small parks in Street for the elderly peoples' relaxation and childrens' amusement at Merriman Gardens and Wraxhill. in addition there is the Victoria Playing Field, where cricket, tennis and football are played.

The Huts.

The ex-army huts situated at Woodsbatch and along Somerton Road are gradually being demolished as the occupants are housed elsewhere. A number, however, continue to be occupied and inspections have been made. Where practical, repairs and weather-proofing have been carried out.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

35 routine visits have been made to the Factories in the district. Conditions found were generally satisfactory. No matters have been referred for attention to the Local Authority by the Factories Inspectors during the year.

Cemetery

The decrease in the number of deaths is reflected in the reduced number of burials in the Council's Cemetery.

Mortuary

Number of cases admitted during the year: 16

1.	From within the Urban District	3
2.	From without the Urban District	13

A very useful service is thus rendered to the community outside as well as within the Urban District.

Water Supply

The Water Supply of the District has been generally satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

During a period in July and August when repairs and overhaul of the Chlorinator were in progress four samples not completely satisfactory were obtained.

(3) Waters not liable to have Plumbo-solvent action

(4) Water Supplies from Public Mains.

DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
No. of Dwelling Hses	Population	No. of Dwelling Hses	Population
(a) 1550	5,490	6	25

(5) Extensions or improvements of Supplies during year

Link main between Stonehill/West End provided to improve the pressure and supply to Walton Parish in the Wells R.D.C. Work commenced on laying 15" new trunk main from Rodney Stoke.

River Pollution

No cases dealt with up to 1st April, 1950.

Rodent Control

Arrangements were made during the year to have one of the Council's employees trained in the work of rodent control. Full treatment for all cases of infestation occurring in private dwellin houses were introduced.

Public Cleansing

House and Trade Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

(a) No. of controlled tips - One.

House Refuse is removed by:-

(i) Contractor or direct labour - Contract for vehicle, Council supply labour.

(ii) No. and type of vehicles employed - One properly constructed refuse lorry on Bedford Chassis

(iii) Frequency of collection - weekly

(iv) No. of parishes covered by routine collections - Whole district.

Housing

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection at 31.12.50.		Conversion to flats or dwellings		Temporar such as Army Hut etc.
	Perm	Temp.	Perm	Temp	Perm	Temp	
Local Authority	28	-	34	-	-	-	45
Private Enterprise	5	-	2	-	2	-	-
TOTALS	33		36		3		45

Total number of Post War Houses completed by:

(a) Local Authority 98
(b) Private Enterprise 20

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year 239

Observations

The Council has a large building programme in hand. Great concern was shown and every endeavour made by the Council during the year to alleviate the pressing housing needs of the district.

Milk

(a)	No. of Registered Dairies	4
(b)	No. of Retailers in area	5
(c)	No. of supplementary licences issued to dealers or distributors whose dairy is outside your area	1

Milk sampling has been regularly carried out and the results appear to indicate that increased attention is being given by the dairymen to the maintenance of clean conditions in the handling and distribution of milk.

Ice Cream

No. of premises registered for:-

(a)	Manufacture and retail	1
(b)	Manufacture only	Nil
(c)	Retail only	17

Slaughter Houses

(a) No. in use under Ministry of Food. None - casualty occasionally slaughtered.

Model Byelaws Series 1 (Ministry of Food)

Steps are being taken to adopt model byelaws.